

# School Awareness & Outreach

Teen dating violence is an integral part of school violence. There are many ways to raise awareness on this widespread problem. The following ideas are just a few of the ways your school can address potential dangers, provide training and establish relationships with your students on teen dating violence.

## **Create a school protocol to build victim safety and offender accountability**

- Establish clear roles and responsibilities of school staff
- Provide consistent school response
- Define the issue and outline training procedures

## **Develop teen outreach programs**

- Assign teens to develop strategies and outline goals for preventing teen dating violence
- Create peer-to-peer groups
- Create victim support groups to help understand they are not alone
- Establish dating abuse awareness club

## **Create an evaluation of abuse**

- Students who use health services and/or counseling programs can be given a questionnaire/screening tool to evaluate needs/problems
- Establish support services
- Conduct confidential surveys in classroom discussions
- Ask school nurse to have dating abuse brochures/safety cards on hand for distribution (see enclosed safety cards)

## **Have resources available**

- Display teen dating violence posters in main areas
- Have safety cards in bathrooms, lounges, etc. (see enclosed safety cards)
- Have books on topic in school library
- Participate in Lake County State's Attorney's Office Annual Teen Dating Violence Awareness Poster Contest
- Show enclosed DVDs in community areas

## **Make public service announcements on teen dating violence**

- Identify the problem
- Provide statistics
- Explain where to go for help
- Refer to school resources

## **Make awareness of the topic a priority in education**

- Encourage Lake County State's Attorney's Office Teen Dating Violence Awareness Poster Contest participation in your school
- Teach about teen dating violence in health class, P.E., social studies, etc.
- Use enclosed toolkit handouts in class for distribution
- Show enclosed DVDs in lunchroom, lounges, community rooms
- Hang posters at your school or on community bulletin boards

## **Display teen dating violence/healthy relationship information on school website**

- Provide links to resources - see website list on Teen Dating Committee/Resource handout
- Allow peer/student involvement in creation of Web site
- Join National Teen Dating Abuse Helpline on MySpace or Facebook
- Scan enclosed flyers on school Web site

# School Awareness & Outreach (cont.)

## **Participate in Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month in February or Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October**

- Distribute flyers/dating abuse materials
- Organize school assembly
- Have daily announcement/activity
- Suggest recommended outlets/encourage healthy relationships
- Bring in speakers
- Have fundraiser for local domestic violence organization or shelter
- Write an article about teen dating abuse for school paper

## **Use school library as a resource center**

- Have bulletin boards with dating violence information and healthy relationship information
- Have suggested reading and website list on topic
- Have books on dating violence
- Have DVDs to check out; See enclosed training DVDs
- Have brochure display with information; Use enclosed teen handouts and safety cards
- Have school policy on file to review

## **Offer parent meetings/parent awareness outreach**

- Provide breakfast sessions
- Create opportunities for evening conversations with students, teachers and parents
- Provide resources at parent/teacher conferences; Use school administration enclosed materials

## **Educate school personnel on teen dating violence resources available**

- Require personnel to be familiar with school dating violence protocol
- Encourage/require curriculum on topic to coincide with the social emotional learning standards
- Distribute enclosed school administrative materials to all divisions
- Make personnel aware of committee list and resources available

## **Develop advisory team in conjunction with teen dating violence protocol to include a group of local experts from community organizations. Use enclosed committee list for guidance and consider including:**

- Local Police Department
- Domestic Violence Provider
- State's Attorney's Office
- Mental Health Service
- Substance Abuse Service
- Media
- Civic Groups
- Teachers/Coaches